

REMARKS

~~Claims 39-64 were pending in the application. Claims 40, 48-50, 52, 53, 57 and 58~~
are amended and 41-43 and 62 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Set forth above is a detailed listing of all claims that are or were pending in the application, with appropriate status identifiers. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 40, 44-61 and 63-64 will remain pending. Reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

The amendments set forth above are largely clerical in nature and address the examiner's objections and rejections, as explained below. Apart from any changes in claim dependency, the amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims. The amended claims are fully supported by the application as filed, and entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 41-43 and 62 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and applicants reserve the right to pursue the embodiments of the invention encompassed by those claims in one or more related applications with the same rights of priority as the instant application.

The July 25, 2003 Office Action

Claim 40 was objected to for missing a period. The above amendment to claim 40 obviates this objection. That amendment does not narrow the scope of claim 40.

Claims 48-50 were rejected under the second paragraph of 35 USC § 112 for lacking antecedent basis for "said ester." The above amendments to claims 48-50 obviate these rejections. These amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims.

Claims 39-64 were rejected for alleged, obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-25 of U.S. patent No. 6,299,900. Without acquiescing to the merits of the Examiner's assertions, applicants concurrently submit a Terminal Disclaimer, which overcomes the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Additional Information Disclosure Statement

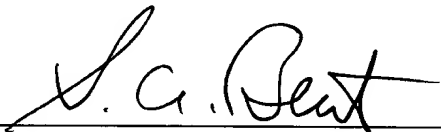
With this response, applicants proffer an additional Information Disclosure Statement, to make of record additional publications that recently came to their attention. None of the cited publications teaches or suggests, alone or in combination with any other prior art of record, the claimed invention.

Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance, and they request an early notice to that effect. If any issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone, in order to advance prosecution.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 CFR §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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